# REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

#### **APPEALS**

Friday, March 26, 2021 9:00 a.m. Commission Chambers 1915 N. Stiles Ave. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma www.wcc.ok.gov

Interim Guidance on Commission Appellate Proceedings

#### **AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER	Presiding Appellate Officer, Chairman Liotta
ROLL CALL	Presiding Appellate Officer, Chairman Liotta
BUSINESS	.Presiding Appellate Officer, Chairman Liotta

#### \*STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE BY CHAIRMAN\*

### THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE COMMISSION

#### A. MINUTES:

• The drafted Minutes of the Special Appeals Meeting of January 21, 2021, will be considered for approval.

### B. <u>Appeal Hearings before the Commission En Banc from Orders Issued by the Commission's Administrative Law Judges</u>

The hearings before the Commission en banc will be conducted pursuant to the authority and jurisdiction of the Administrative Workers' Compensation Act, Title 85A O.S. § 1 et seq., and the Workers' Compensation Commission's Permanent Rules, OAC 810. The Commissioners may recess for lunch.

The procedure for the hearings before the Commission en banc is as follows:

- Each side will be allowed ten (10) minutes for oral arguments.
- The appellant will present first. Appellant may divide his or her ten minutes for argument, allowing a portion of that time for rebuttal.
- Both parties are subject to questioning by Commissioners.

#### 1. Jeffrey Elias v. City of Tulsa (OWN RISK #10435), File #CM2018-04288Y

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Michael R. Green is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Cyrus Nathaniel Lawyer and Connor E. Brittingham are the attorneys of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 2. James Stirling v. Lowes Home Center LLC (OWN RISK), File #CM2018-01618Y

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Bret A. Unterschuetz and Arthur H. Adams are the attorneys of record for the Claimant and Jordan S. Ensley is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### 3. Brenda Hall v. MITF, File #CM2019-02285H

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Blodgett. Alex Forbes is the attorney of record and Richard Cole is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

### 4. <u>Leroy Freeman Jr. v. Dale Rogers Training Center Inc. and CompSource Mutual Ins.</u> Co. (FKA CompSource Oklahoma), File #CM2019-05902H

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Blodgett. Edward Grimes is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Warren E. Mouledoux III is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

### 5. <u>Tanya Reynolds v. Harvest Hills Baptist Church & Christian School, Church Mutual Ins. Co., S.I., File #CM2019-07146L</u>

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Louis P. Falsetti is the attorney of record for the Claimant and Jeffrey W. Dasovich is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action; continuing the matter; affirming the order and decision of the Administrative Law Judge and issuing an order to that effect; or taking preliminary action in the matter to reverse, modify, or remand. If the Commissioners do not fully affirm the order of the Administrative Law Judge, the Commission may instruct Appellate Counsel or staff to draft a proposed order to be considered in further deliberations and at a future Commission meeting.

#### C. Commission Consideration of Adoption of Final Order in the Following Cases:

#### 1. Victor Martinez v. Multiple Injury Trust Fund, File #CM2018-02303YMIF

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Marcus Gowens appeared for the Claimant and Jon Derouen appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on October 23, 2020. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, Commissioner Russell moved to take preliminary action to affirm the Administrative Law Judge's Order and instruct Appellate Counsel or other staff member to draft a proposed order to be considered at a future meeting.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action, adopting an order as proposed or as modified at the hearing, or continuing the matter.

## 2. <u>Bernard Debord Jr. v. Action Group Staffing and CompSource Mutual Ins. Co. (FKA COMPSOURCE OKLAHOMA) and Flintco LLC and Arch Insurance Co., File #CM2019-02911A</u>

Respondent Flintco, and its insurance carrier, Arch Insurance Company, filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Inhofe. Respondent Action Group Staffing, and its insurance carrier, CompSource Mutual Insurance Company, filed a cross-appeal. David P. Reid appeared for the Claimant. Dana L. Gish appeared for Action Group Staffing and CompSource Mutual Insurance Company. John A. McCaleb appeared for Flintco and Arch Insurance Company.

This case came on for Oral Argument on October 23, 2020. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission took this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action, adopting an order as proposed or as modified at the hearing, or continuing the matter.

### 3. <u>Steven Bachlor v. IC Bus of Oklahoma LLC and IC Bus of OK A Navistar Inc. Co.</u> (OWN RISK #19208), File #CM2017-05790A

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Ray Lahann appeared for the Claimant and David J. Frette appeared for Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on October 23, 2020. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission took this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action, adopting an order as proposed or as modified at the hearing, or continuing the matter.

### 4. Quincy Tran v. Boeing Co. and Indemnity Insurance Co. of North America, File #CM2017-05844R

Respondent filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Claimant represented himself pro se. Theresa Bullard appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on October 23, 2020. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, Commissioner Russell moved to take preliminary action to reverse and remand the Administrative Law Judge's decision as contrary to law and instruct Appellate Counsel or other staff member to draft a proposed order to be considered for continued action at a future meeting.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action, adopting an order as proposed or as modified at the hearing, or continuing the matter.

### 5. <u>Vincent Dopler v. NCED Conference Center Marriot and Marriot International Inc.</u> (OWN RISK), File #CM2018-06999K

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge Egan. Kurt W. Goodwin and Spencer Housley appeared for the Claimant. Jennifer Finley appeared for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on December 18, 2020. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, Commissioner Russell moved to take preliminary action to reverse and remand the Administrative Law Judge's decision as contrary to law and instruct Appellate Counsel or other staff member to draft a proposed order to be considered for continued action at a future meeting.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action, adopting an order as proposed or as modified at the hearing, or continuing the matter.

#### 6. Valerie Wilson v. MITF, File #CM2017-00270K

Claimant filed an appeal from the order issued by Administrative Law Judge McMillin. Alex Forbes is the attorney of record and Richard Cole is the attorney of record for the Respondent.

This case came on for Oral Argument on January 15, 2021. After reviewing the record, hearing oral argument of counsel, and deliberating, the Commission took this case under advisement.

#### **Possible Action:**

Possible action may include, but is not limited to: taking no action, adopting an order as proposed or as modified at the hearing, or continuing the matter.

#### **D.** Announcements

The Commission's next dual advisory meeting is Thursday, April 1, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. The Commission's next dual PAC meeting is Friday, April 9, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. The Commission's next regular business meeting is Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. The Commission's next regular appeals meeting is Friday, April 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.